

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1 and 13 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of exchanging gases in a light source including comprising a hollow tube having a first end and a second end with a first endcap at the first end and a second endcap at the second end, ~~a first~~ an inlet valve associated with the first end to allow one or more gases to flow into the hollow tube and an outlet ~~a second~~ valve associated with the second end to allow the gas or gases within the tube to be removed from the tube, the method comprising:

opening the inlet first and outlet second valves which allows substantially simultaneous gas flow into and out from said hollow tube;

removing ~~pumping~~ a first gas initially located within the hollow tube ~~light source~~ out of the light source through the outlet second valve,; while providing ~~pumping~~ a second gas into the hollow tube ~~light source~~ through the inlet first valve; and

closing the inlet and outlet ~~first and second~~ valves.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first gas is selected from the group consisting of: inert gases, krypton, argon, neon, xenon, helium, mercury, neon/helium mixture, neon/argon mixture, oxygen, hydrogen, deuterium, and nitrogen.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the second gas is selected from the group consisting of: inert gases, krypton, argon, neon, xenon, helium, mercury, neon/helium mixture, neon/argon mixture, oxygen, hydrogen, deuterium, and nitrogen.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first gas is selected from the group consisting of: inert gases, krypton, argon, neon, xenon, helium, mercury, neon/helium mixture, neon/argon mixture, oxygen, hydrogen, deuterium, and nitrogen; and the second gas is selected from the group consisting of: inert gases, krypton, argon, neon, xenon, helium, mercury, neon/helium mixture, neon/argon mixture, oxygen, hydrogen, deuterium, and nitrogen.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the valves include seals to prevent gas from leaking past or through the valves from the tube.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the light source is a straight light source.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the light source is a serpentine light source.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the light source is a lamp array of serially connected light sources.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the light source is a rectangular planar light source.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the light source is a spiral light source.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the light source is a ring light source.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the light source is a channel light source.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of exchanging gases in a light source comprising:

opening a first valve of the light source; and opening a second valve of the light source to allow a gas to substantially simultaneously flow through said first and second valves;

pumping a first gas initially located within the light source out of the light source; while pumping a second gas into the light source; and

closing each valve of the light source.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein the first gas is selected from the group consisting of: inert gases, krypton, argon, neon, xenon, helium, mercury, neon/helium

LAW OFFICES OF  
MACPHERSON, KWOK CHEN  
& HEID LLP

2402 MICHELSON DRIVE  
SUITE 210  
IRVINE, CA 92612  
(949) 752-7040  
FAX (949) 752-7049

mixture, neon/argon mixture, oxygen, hydrogen, deuterium, and nitrogen; and the second gas is selected from the group consisting of: inert gases, krypton, argon, neon, xenon, helium, mercury, neon/helium mixture, neon/argon mixture, oxygen, hydrogen, deuterium, and nitrogen.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein the light source is a straight light source.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein the light source is a serpentine light source.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein the light source is a lamp array of serially connected light sources.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein the light source is a rectangular planar light source.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein the light source is a spiral light source.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein the light source is a ring light source.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 13 wherein the light source is a channel light source.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein the valves are open/close valves.

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IRVINE, CA 92612  
(949) 752-7040  
FAX (949) 752-7049